

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9414

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 4776

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - P A R A O N E

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AUGUST 6 PREMIER NOTED HIS INTENTION TO STRENGTHEN POLITICAL UNITY WITHIN TAIWAN AND TO ACHIEVE MORE OPEN SOCIETY AS MEANS OF COPING WITH PRC'S INCREASINGLY ENERGETIC UNIFICATION EFFORTS. HE ALSO REPEATED VERY FIRMLY THAT ROC WAS NOT AND WOULD NOT TALK WITH PRC. IF PEKING WENT BEYOND SPREADING RUMORS TO THIS EFFECT AND CLAIMED THAT PRC WANTED PEACE WHILE ROC WANTED WAR, HE SAID ROC WOULD ANSWER THAT CHINESE ON TAIWAN ARE WORKING FOR THEIR OWN IDEAS AND INTERESTS; IF PEOPLE ON TAIWAN WERE TO TOY WITH CONTACTS, IT WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO THEIR SELF DESTRUCTION. END SUMMARY.

2. I MET WITH PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO AUGUST 6 FOR TALK BEFORE MY DEPARTURE ON CONSULTATIONS AND LEAVE. FRED CHIEN AND DCM GLEYSTEN WERE ALSO PRESENT.

3. CCK WAS SYSTEMATIC IN HIS REMARKS, EXPLAINING CONTINUITY OF ROC'S ECONOMIC POLICIES AND DEFENSIVE ORIENTATION OF ITS MILITARY POSTURE (SEPTELS). HE THEN REVIEWED
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HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL POLICIES IN LIGHT OF PRC UNIFI-

CATION EFFORTS. INTERNALLY, HE SAID, HIS OBJECTIVE WAS TO STRENGTHEN TAIWAN'S UNITY AND TO MOVE TOWARD AN OPEN SOCIETY. THIS WOULD NOT ONLY BE CONSISTENT WITH SUN YAT-SEN'S THREE PRINCIPLES BUT, MORE PRACTICALLY, WOULD CONTRAST TAIWAN FAVORABLY WITH THE PRC SO PEOPLE ON THE OUTSIDE COULD DRAW THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS. CCK ASSERTED THAT HE HAD ALREADY BEEN ABLE TO NARROW THE GAP BETWEEN MAINLANDER AND NATIVE BORN TAIWANESE ELEMENTS AND INTENDED TO MAKE THE GAP DISAPPEAR ALTOGETHER. GENERALLY, MOREOVER, HIS GOVERNMENT HAD RELAXED RESTRAINTS AND RESTRICTIONS THROUGHOUT THE SOCIETY IN HOPES OF ACHIEVING MORE POPULAR SUPPORT AND BUILDING A BASE FOR FURTHER LIBERALIZATION.

4. LEAVING NO DOUBT ABOUT HIS CONCERN, CCK SHIFTED TO WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS FURTHER PERSISTENT RUMORS, ESPECIALLY FROM HONG KONG, ABOUT ROC-PRC "UNIFICATION TALKS." THE PRC WAS USING VARIOUS WAYS TO SPREAD SUCH RUMORS, PARTICULARLY BY INVITING PEOPLE TO VISIT PEKING WHO HAD PAST ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE ROC. CCK NOTED THAT HE HAD ALREADY MADE THE ROC'S POSITION EMPHATICALLY CLEAR AND NEED NOT ELABORATE HIS EARLIER REMARKS TO ME TO THE EFFECT THAT NO TALKS WERE GOING ON AND THAT ROC WOULD IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES ENGAGE IN UNIFICATION DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS. THE ROC WAS NOT PLAYING GAMES NOW AND NEVER WOULD, BUT THE PRC WOULD PROBABLY CARRY ITS GAME PLAYING AT LEAST ONE FURTHER STEP TO ALLEGE IT WANTED PEACE WHILE THE ROC WANTED WAR OR AT LEAST REFUSED TO TALK. CCK STATED THAT ROC'S ANSWER WOULD BE THAT CHINESE ON TAIWAN WERE WORKING FOR THEIR OWN IDEAS AND THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND IF THEY WERE TO TOY WITH CONTACTS, IT WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO THEIR SELF DESTRUCTION.

5. I COMMENTED THAT I HAD REPORTED PREMIER'S JUNE 4 REMARKS FULLY AND WOULD REPORT HIS UNAMBIGUOUS REITERATION. I SAID WHILE MANY PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD THE ROC'S POSITION, OTHERS, INCLUDING SOME IN THE US, STILL SUSPECTED TALKS WERE OR WOULD SOON BE UNDERWAY. CCK REPLIED THAT WE HAD ENJOYED A CLOSE ASSOCIATION BASED ON OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMON INTEREST. IF THERE WERE ANY DOUBT IN OUR MINDS ABOUT HIS POSITION OR POLICIES HE HOPED I WOULD PERSONALLY APPROACH HIM FOR ANY DOCUMENTS, MATERIAL OR EXPLANATIONS THAT WOULD CLARIFY MATTERS. DCM SHOULD, MOREOVER, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT HIM DURING MY ABSENCE. I SAID I DEEPLY APPRECIATED HIS REMARKS AND WOULD CONFIRM OUR WARM, CLOSE COOPERATION WHICH I HOPED WOULD CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE.

6. IN CLOSING, I NOTED THAT WHILE I WAS BACK HOME I WOULD TRY TO CLARIFY MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT TAIWAN. THE ROC'S IMAGE HAD IMPROVED BUT THERE STILL WERE MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THE PROSPEC OF ROC-PRC TALKS AND ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH TAIWAN HAS AN OPEN SOCIETY. CCK ACKNOWLEDGED THE ROC HAD SOME WAY TO GO IN CONVEYING AN ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE REAL SITUATION AND ATTITUDES ON TAIWAN, BUT HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT WITH TIME SITUATION WOULD IMPROVE.
MCCONAUGHY

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